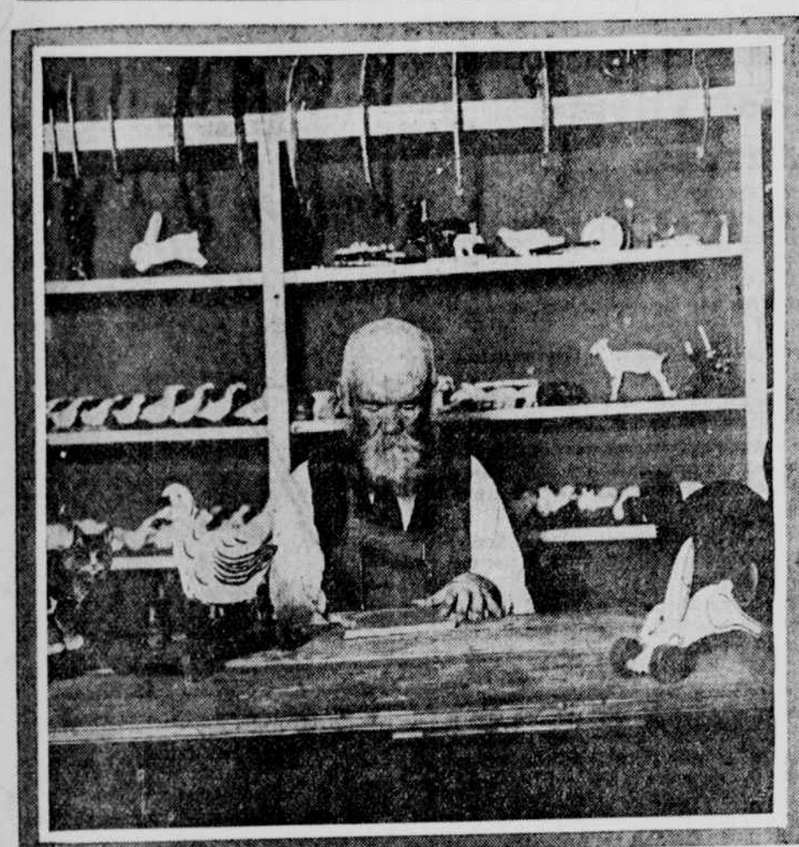
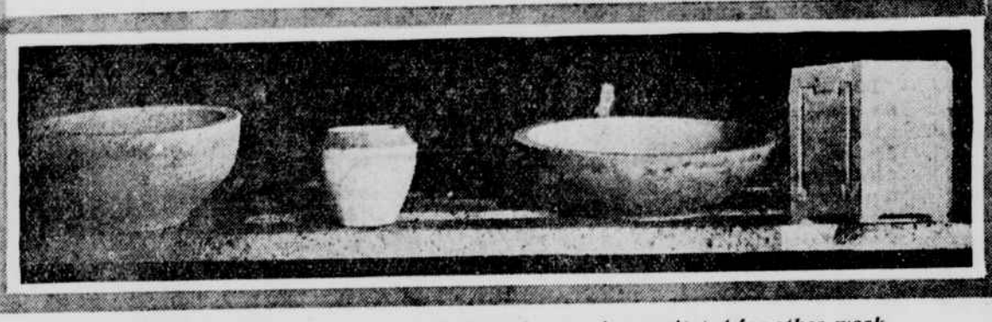
MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT A DOUBLE BLESSING

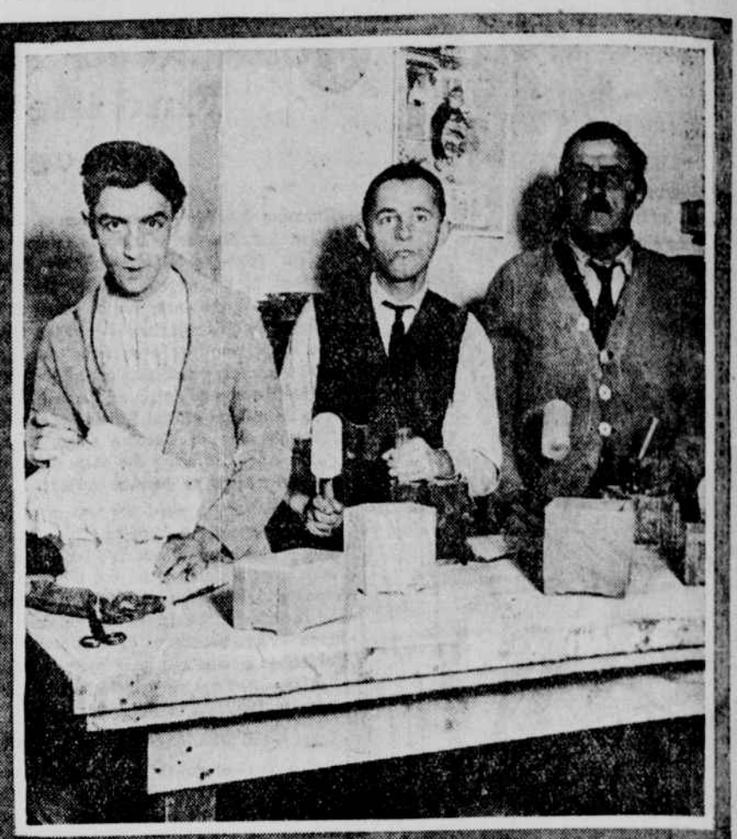
Sales of Beautiful and Useful Articles They Manufacture Help Disabled Folk in Various Institutions to Live by Their Own Efforts—High Standard of Work and Artisans' Skill Insure Good Values.



A veritable Santa Claus at work in The Old Men's Toy Shop.



Beautiful and serviceable wares turned out by men incapacitated for other work.



Cardiac patients at the Sharonware Shop making "The Pots That Breathe."

IT IS possible to do a part of your Christmas shopping in a way that will help others to help themselves, give you an understanding of the worthy endeavor being made to aid persons disabled for regular work in life to be self-respecting and self-supporting, and encourage those interested in worthy social work.

There are the blind, crippled, cardiac patients; girls of Manhattan Trade School, and a body of men incapacitated for regular work through age or illness, all working to get their stock up to standard for the Christmas sales. Every one of these persons is looking forward with eagerness to this sale time and hoping and building greatly on its success.

In visiting these various places one is astounded at the variety and excellent quality of things for sale. A good place to select a Christmas gift is the "Light House," of the New York Association for the Blind, at 111 East Fifty-ninth Street, where the sightless have been taken from the dark of inactivity through education and the kind interest of many persons.

Every purchase made there helps others to help themselves, for the workers are paid for their time and are afforded the splendid feeling of aiding in their support rather than being burdens to others.

The showrooms at the "Light House" are most attractive. Home furnishings of all sorts are to be had, and the workmanship is flawless. Goods offered to the public in this and other institutions to-day are decidedly up to the mark, and in this way it becomes not charity that is asked, but merely a support of their market.

WORKERS ARE CHEERFUL.

At the "Light House," in place of gloomy, sad faces, one finds the workers happy, cheerful and busy at looms. The women make beautifully colored rag rugs, the finest of silk and gilt cloth for opera bags and table coverings and wall hangings of interesting design.

There is another department where sewing is going on, and one may purchase anything from a half-dozen carefully hemmed dish towels, napkins or hand towels to fine examples of needlework. Worsted articles in knittting and crocheting, and dainty little jackets and booties for babies are to be had, to say nothing of warm scarfs and caps.

The wicker ware is interesting. This work is done by both men and women, baskets,

A blind rug maker and a few of the attractive articles made at "The Light House."

tables, tea stands and trays being offered. There are also wooden chairs and tables, as well as many other articles for home use.

Going downtown from the "Light House" one finds the Sharonware Workshops, at 42 Lexington Avenue. It is impossible for one to realize at first glance that there is anything wrong with the men employed, but they are all cardiac patients, and a week of hard work would send them to the hospital.

About two years ago, through the efforts of several physicians, the need of light occupation for such men attracted the attention of women like Miss Mabel Choate, Mrs. Morris K. Jesup and Mrs. Ponsonby Ogle. These women lent their aid in intallinsg the workshops, where fascinating garden furniture and flower pots are made. It was to Dr. Herbert J. Hall, of Massachusetts, who is an expert in devising suitable work for invalid persons, that application was made for work that these men could turn out and that would be marketable. Sharonware, or the "pots that breathe," was the result, and now men who have overstrained hearts, men who have been furniture movers, truck drivers, workers in engineering where long days spent out of doors and in the cold were necessary, are enjoying the work of the Sharonware shops, making a sufficient amount of money to live on, and are in as good health as could be expected. Once each week every man is thoroughly examined by a visiting physician, and if he is found below par he is sent for a rest to the Sharonware Home, in Sharon, Conn.

ATTRACTIVE WARES FOR SALE.

For the flower lover there is nothing more suitable than a Sharonware pot, and these may be purchased for as little as 25 cents each. But there is more pretentious ware, sundials, large jardinières, garden seats, window boxes, bird baths and many other articles, suitable for either the city apartment or the garden in the country. Any one of them will make an attractive Christmas gift.

Perhaps the quaintest of such shops is at 416 Lafayette Street. It is known as 'The Old Men's Toy Shop." There more than fifty aged and infirm men are making attractive toys out of wood. Each man receives 50 cents a day for his work and 10 cents for luncheon. The men work from 9 o'clock in the morning until 5 o'clock in the evening, and have three-quarters of an hour for luncheon.

When Miss Christine Foster was on the Mayor's committee for the unemployed last winter the condition of men who were incapacitated for hard work through age or infirmity touched her heart, and she began to look about for work that would be light but that would pay, and in the end enable the shop to become self-supporting. "The Old Men's Toy Shop" was the outcome.

The financial affairs of the toy shop, which is not yet self-supporting, have been taken over by the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, but Miss Foster still directs the work of the men. No questions are asked when an aged man applies there for work.

Miss Foster has opened an apartment not far from the shop where about twelve of the men make their home. Cooking is done by them there, and for those who cannot be accommodated there at night the apartment serves as a sort of club where they may sit and chat, smoke their pipes, play games and be warm and comfortable for the evening.

TOYS ARE INEXPENSIVE.

The toys are made of wood, sawed out and shaped by certain of the men and colored by others. They are moderate in price, and 25 cents not only will buy an attractive Christmas toy, but will add to the good work Miss Foster is doing.

The Free School for Crippled Children, at 471 West Fifty-seventh Street, not only gives schoolroom training, but goes further in teaching these little children various branches of work that will furnish them with trades by which they may make their living as they grow up. Throughout the house there are cheerfulness and happiness. This school was instituted by Mrs. Arthur Elliott Fish some years ago, and is now flourishing. Its sale this year will be held in co-operation with two other associations that are aiding the crippled.

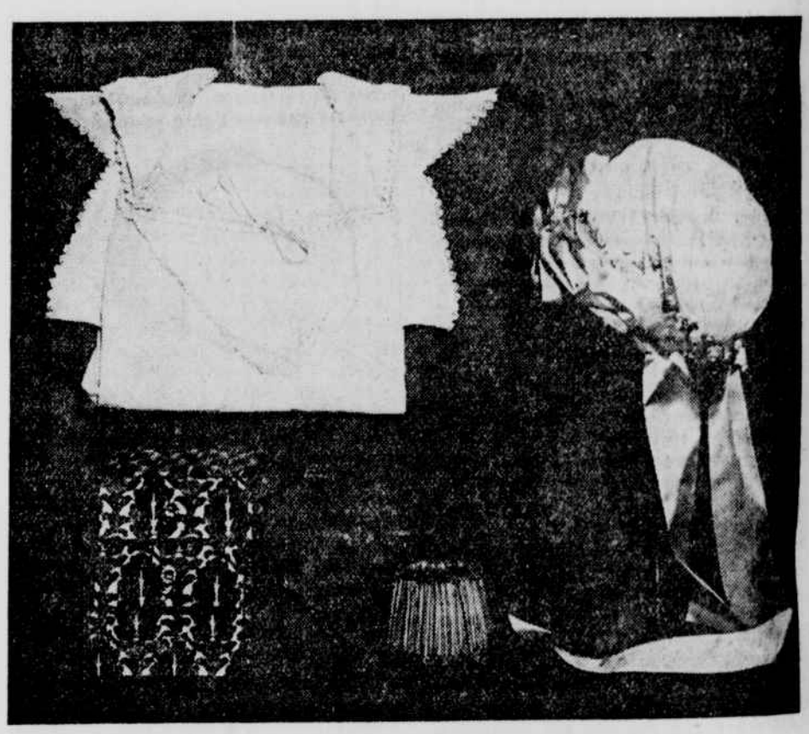
Here again one may find all sorts of gifts for the home. Wood carving is a special feature of the work, and some of it is very beautiful. Basket weaving and carpentering are other branches.

At 209 to 213 East Twenty-third Street is the Manhattan Trade School for Girls. Not long ago this school was taken over by the Board of Education. There are now 800 young girls enrolled, and each is studying to become an expert in a selected line. Miss Florence M. Marshall, principal, says the school is the only one in the system which has no appropriation from the city for supplies or equipment. The Manhattan Trade School really is a self-supporting institution, but the selling of their goods has a most beneficial effect on the girls, for it keeps them enthusiastic and helps maintain their work at a high standard.

The Christmas sales are to take place in the school building on December 8 and 9, from 10 a. m. until 5 p. m. and from 8 to 10 in the evening. At the sales may be found everything for children to wear, beautifully made, as well as clothes for adults, from the ordinary housekeeping kind to the finest lingerie, petticoats, shirtwaists and dresses.

In the fancy work department there are the daintiest of candle shades, desk sets and cretonne-covered boxes, and a great array of similar articles.

The money derived from the sales at Christmas and all other times goes to the support of the school. It is well worth one's time to go to a Christmas sale of the school. Besides affording an opportunity of obtaining a pretty gift, it will help make it possible to continue the school, which is fitting many a young woman to take her place in the workaday world and become comfortably self-supporting.



Needlework done by the girls of Manhattan Trade School.

THE NEW MEANING OF THRIFT

Encourage the Child to Think of Cost in Terms of Human Effort Rather Than in Terms of Price.

"A patch was an evidence of thrift, and thrift was a commendable virtue."

By Sidonie Matzner Gruenberg.

WHATEVER benefits may flow from the training of children, they are supposed to have some relation to the future; but the training itself is founded upon the experience of the past. That educating children to live tomorrow according to the wisdom of yesterday is not always a sound procedure is illustrated by the prevailing attitude toward "thrift." Every one, nearly, pays formal homage to the supposed virtue of thrift, and every one, nearly, resents in his inmost heart the niggardliness and narrowness suggested by the word.

In this country thrift has traditionally meant the scheme of savings worked out under pioneer conditions during Colonial times. It applies, of course, to the whole economic outlook, but it is especially prominent in connection with the idea of saving. The early settlers found plenty of land and plenty of timber; but the products of labor were to be attained only with much effort. Raw materials that involved labor, such as wool and linen and all of the metals, which had to be brought from Europe, were carefully hoarded. Clothes were mended and patched until they simply could not hold together any longer, and then the rags were saved for carpets and quilts, or for making paper. A patch was an evidence of "thrift," and thrift was a commendable virtue.

But the cultivation of land was carried on in a most wasteful manner, and good timber was burned and destroyed with wanton disregard for the future needs of the country. These facts only emphasize the fallacy of the common notion that we may teach such an abstraction as a "virtue" and then expect it to perform its function in the regulation of human life. Thrift was very earnestly cultivated, but it had no meaning except in relation to particular kinds of commodities. Fire and fat had to be saved, but whatever was plentiful was disregarded as carelessly as the present generation disregards matches and paper.

Yet every generation has to teach its young the best that it knows about the handling of the material basis of life. The difficulty lies in not recognizing that economic changes are constantly going on, and that it is necessary to readjust past experience to new situations. A little boy who had acquired an interest in spending money was given an opportunity to exercise this interest by being sent to the neighborhood stores to buy as much as possible for the household. His father, thinking to combine the business of learning with the pleasure of spending, suggested that the child keep a record of all that he bought for his mother. "When I was your age," he said, "I kept an account of all of grandmother's household expenses." The child's mother was at a loss. She approved of the boy's writing and adding; but she also realized the difficulty she had in making her husband understand that the prices with which he became familiar as a boy were no longer current. She wished that he had never been so thoroughly drilled in the prices of the early 80's of the last century.

This father, like so many others, continued to think of cost and saving in terms that no longer apply. In the same way, every family cultivates its pet economies—and its pet extravagances. In a certain family sugar is looked upon as the index of frugality; whoever takes two or more lumps of sugar to the cup is extravagant, and whoever takes one or none is thrifty. In this same family are trunks full of old clothes that no one will ever use, and the rental cost of storing them is equivalent to more than a tenth of the total cost of the dwelling. Yet these people think nothing of spending several thousand dollars a year on motor cars—because motor cars came into their lives after the standards of thrift had become established.

We shall have to teach thrift, or its present day equivalent, from a new point of view. We have learned that materials of all kinds have value in proportion to their contribution to human welfare, and not in proportion to their prices. On the other hand, we have learned to think of cost in terms of human effort, rather than in terms of price. The children can learn to think of their surroundings in the same way, although it is almost impossible to escape the idea of price entirely.

A teacher once observed a child crumpling up a piece of paper that she had "spoiled" by a few slight pencil marks. On being reproved, the girl affected an injured air—it seemed to her rather small to make a fuss about a cheap piece of paper. The teacher got the attention of the class and set before it a new problem in arithmetic. There are so many sheets of this kind of paper in a pad, and the Board of Education pays so many cents a pad. The little girl who precipitated this problem curled up her lips triumphantly—the sheet she had spoiled cost a very tiny fraction of a cent! But, the teacher continued, there were several hundred thousand pupils in the schools of the city, and the average attendance was about 175 days a year. What would it cost the city to give each child an additional sheet of this paper each day?

The fraction of a cent is not worth considering; but the wanton and unnecessary waste of materials is worth very seriously considering. Instead, however, of fixing the child's attention upon the sugar or the paper, we should try, as quickly as possible, to get him to think in the larger aspects of the problem. A child of seven or eight is usually quite capable of understanding the principle of avoiding waste, and of applying it quite generally to all kinds of materials. The other side of our problem is to establish through the routine of the home a sane attitude toward the whole question of the use of materials. It is not enough to repeat from time to time the adage about being "penny wise and pound foolish." It is necessary constantly to keep before the children the idea that the justification for getting is not having, but using. Material wealth is to contribute not to our repute, not to our power over others, but to life more abundant.

The teacher set before the class a new problem in arithmetic.

". . . suggested that he keep a record of all that he bought."